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ABSTRACT

This annual report on the comprehensive 5-year program for the enhancement of libraries in New York State (1) provides a benchmark for the continuing planning, development, and evaluation of state library services; (2) summarizes the objectives, policies, and programs undertaken for the improvement of those services; (3) serves as a guide to library networks, regional planning groups, and other agencies that wish to participate; and (4) meets the requirements of the Federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA). An overview of the state library environment is offered; library systems and networks are profiled; statewide resource sharing and technological change are summarized; constraints on services are outlined; and the program's goals and objectives are discussed. Tables provide summary statistics on public, academic, school, institution, and medical libraries; the New York State Library; public library systems; systems and libraries by region; and state appropriations for higher education. A 23-item bibliography of major documents for the New York State library service program and lists of New York members of the LSCA Advisory Council and the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries conclude the report. (KM)

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library service to the people of New York State

a long-range program

The University of the State of New York
The State Education Department
Albany, New York 12230

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LIBRARY SERVICE to the PEOPLE OF NEW YORK STATE

A Long-Range Program
October 1, 1986 – September 30, 1991
for the
Improvement of Library Services Utilizing
Local, State, and Federal Resources
Adopted by The Board of Regents
March 21, 1986

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The University of the State of New York
The State Education Department
The New York State Library
Cultural Education Center
Albany, New York 12230
1986

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The Long-Range Program: Ideas From Many, Uses By Many

This is the ninth edition of Library Service to the People of New York State, a comprehensive five-year program for the improvement of library services in New York State. This document is revised each year and is intended to:

- Provide a benchmark for the continuing planning, development, and evaluation of library services in New York State.
- Summarize for the Board of Regents, the State Education Department, New York State libraries, agencies and organizations with an interest in library services, and interested citizens of the State, the objectives, policies, and programs undertaken for the improvement of library services, particularly those that the Federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) program helps finance.
- Serve as a guide to library systems, regional planning groups, and other agencies that wish to participate in some way in the LSCA program.
- Meet the requirements of the Federal Library Services and Construction Act and the regulations of the U.S. Secretary of Education under that act.

Staff of the New York State Library and members of the LSCA Advisory Council have prepared this document (and its earlier versions) over the last several years. This edition includes a new chapter, "Library Resource Sharing in New York State and Technological Change," responding to the requirement in the 1984 LSCA amendments. This chapter and objective 6 are based on work and statewide review in 1984, which was further reviewed by current and potential participating institutions in 1985-86. Others who review and contribute to this document are the Regents Advisory Council on Libraries, and within the State Education Department, the Commissioner of Education, the Executive Deputy Commissioner of Education, and the Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education. This long-range program is approved by the Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York.

The State Education Department and all associated with the library development program recognize the need for continuous evaluation and planning. This principle is observed in publications and action. Six basic policy documents for today's library service program in New York State are: *The Regents Long-Range Plan for the Office of Cultural Education; Meeting Information Needs of the 80's* (the Report of the Commissioner's Committee on Statewide Library Development); the *Long-Range Program*; the *LSCA Annual Program Statements; Major Recommendations of the Regents for Legislative Action*; and *Federal Legislation and Education in New York State.*

The Libraries of New York State and Their Environment

Libraries — An Overview

Libraries have played a major role in New York State throughout its history. Most New York State communities support a public library. Many such libraries date back to the middle and early 1800's. Among them are public and private institutions that were founded and developed through gifts, bequests, and endowments. Some are of national and international repute and help establish library and information services as a major resource of the State.

In addition to these public libraries, the State has educational and academic institutions with library collections of great size and excellence. The State itself has supported a State Library since 1818. This vast research library is today the country's leading state library, with a collection of almost two million volumes and millions of documents, manuscripts, maps, and other items. State-level library extension and development programs antedate this century and, under the leadership of the Regents and the Education Department, are exemplary for the Nation.

During the last 30 years, the development of communication technology and the information explosion have multiplied demands on public libraries. These libraries, and libraries of all types, have been changing in response to increasing demands by a better educated citizenry.

New York State's libraries draw researchers from throughout the Nation and the world. They are leaders in the development of innovative services, and the State's library systems were among the first in the Nation. Much of the new technology for storage, retrieval, and communication of information was conceived in New York.

The following facts about libraries and library systems in New York State are notable:

- New York State has some 7,600 libraries — public, academic, school, special and institution — with 171 million books, films, pictures and manuscripts, 11,200 librarians, 14,000 other employees, and annual operating expenditures of $705 million.
- Responsibility for library services rests with the Board of Regents of The University of the State of New York, empowered by the State Constitution to direct educational activities.
- An outstanding regional public library program, composed of 22 systems, demonstrates that coordination of services and functions through cooperation can result in better service for users.
- Nine regional reference and research library resources systems share resources to meet the reference and information needs of college and university graduate students and faculty, members of the professions, special library users, school students, and other clientele.
- Academic library resources of 268 colleges and universities, other postsecondary schools in the State, and collections of The New York Public Library Research Libraries are a major part of the State's total library resources.

- Forty-eight school library systems, school libraries in more than 95 percent of the public elementary and secondary schools, and in more than 75 percent of the nonpublic schools serve learners and teachers throughout the State.
- Unparalleled special library resources in corporations, cultural institutions, voluntary associations, business, and government agencies are available to both special and general clientele.
- NYSILL – the State's first major service linking libraries of all types – is the most fully developed statewide interlibrary loan network in the Nation.
- The State provides substantial aid to support library systems and to provide incentives for resource sharing.
- The New York State Library is both a great research library and the library development agency for the State. It is the country's only state library that qualifies for membership in the prestigious Association of Research Libraries.

To provide access and increased services and to meet the informational, cultural, and recreational needs of all the people of the State, a comprehensive program involving all types of libraries is required. Parts of this program are already in place. Others are being developed as library planners work with legislation, rapidly developing technologies, and a changing environment of information services.

The role of libraries is altered by the trend toward lifelong learning, the increase in leisure time, and our "information society." Today, libraries supply information in a wide range of formats including printed materials, microforms, computer software, recordings, films, discs, and videotapes. Diverse clienteles come to libraries in search of information and learning, new ways to use leisure time more profitably, and materials which help them to find their roots. Demand has also increased for research-level materials from postsecondary education, high technology industry, Federal, state and local governments, business, and industry. As the ways to identify resources have multiplied, the demand for access to these resources has accelerated.

State Government

Education in New York State is under the direction of the Board of Regents whose powers are provided for in the State Constitution.

The Board of Regents consists of 16 members (one from each of the State's 12 judicial districts, and four elected at large), each elected for a term of seven years. The Commissioner of Education, appointed by the Board of Regents, is the chief educational administrator and President of The University of the State of New York, which encompasses all of the educational activities of the State. The Board of Regents and the Commissioner determine broad policy and standards for all education in New York State.

Under the Deputy Commissioner for Cultural Education, the Assistant Commissioner for Libraries and State Librarian administers the State Library and is the chief library officer for the State. The New York State Library is comprised of two major units: The Library, and the Division of Library Development.

The Bureau of School Library Media Programs is within the Division of General Education, under the Deputy Commissioner for Elementary, Secondary and Continuing Education. Staff of this bureau cooperate with staff of the Library Development Division in library development programs. School library system development is the responsibility of a Department implementation team headed by the Assistant Commissioner for Libraries, assisted by the Director of the Library Development Division, and the Chief of the Bureau of School Library Media Programs.

The Legislative Branch of government includes the Senate of 61 members and the Assembly of 150 members. The Legislature elects the mem-

bers of the Board of Regents, formulates State Education Law, and appropriates funds for the State Education Department and library programs. Library legislation is considered by the Assembly Subcommittee on Libraries (reporting to the Assembly Higher Education Committee) and the Senate Subcommittee on Libraries (reporting to the Senate Education Committee).

The Executive Branch of government includes the Governor and State departments and agencies. The Governor, through the Division of the Budget, prepares the State budget and submits it to the Legislature each January. General oversight of State funds is the responsibility of the Department of Audit and Control, headed by the State Comptroller, an elected official.

The Judicial Branch includes all State courts. The courts may decide legal questions relating to libraries and may decide appeals (under specific circumstances) from decisions of the Commissioner of Education.

Libraries, Library Systems and Networks

Some 7,600 libraries serve the people of New York State. Many of these libraries are linked with others in resource sharing systems and networks. These libraries have book collections of some 171 million volumes. Brief summary data on the several types of libraries are shown in the following table.

Public Libraries. The people of New York State are served by 732 chartered public libraries and over 350 branch libraries. Of these chartered libraries, 729 are members of the 22 public library systems. Some 63 percent of the libraries (463) in the State are small, serving fewer than 7,500 population. Only 105 of the libraries (and almost half of these are located on Long Island) serve a population of 25,000 or more. The three public libraries in New York City, (the Brooklyn, New York and Queens Borough Public Libraries)

SUMMARY OF LIBRARY STATISTICS – 1984

	Number	Total Volumes	Professional Staff	Support Staff	Total Operating Expenditures	Expenditures Salary	%	Materials	%
Public[a]	727	53,870,529	3,615	6,536	$335,633,884	$216,439,743	64%	$ 45,674,292	14%
Academic[b]	268	58,081,394	2,483	3,584	218,781,182	NA	NA	60,443,606	28%
School[c] – Public	3,942	41,580,224	3,251	3,262	117,093,094	87,545,180	75%	15,711,230	13%
Nonpublic	2,298	10,070,927	1,347	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Institution[d]	163	894,524	73	89	3,213,275	2,123,220	66%	825,319	26%
Medical[e]	197	4,732,750	333	432	23,366,001	NA	NA	7,929,311	34%
NY State Library[f]	1	1,943,297	92	128	7,123,778	4,172,778	59%	1,720,419	24%
TOTAL	7,596	171,173,645	11,194	14,031	$705,211,214	$310,280,921	44%	$132,294,177	19%

[a] *Public and Association Libraries Statistics 1984*
[b] *Selected Statistics on Postsecondary Libraries in New York State, Fall 1984 and Fiscal Year 1983-84 Data, June 1985*
[c] SED Information Center on Education, Public/Nonpublic school library statistics, 1984-85
[d] *Institution Libraries Statistics 1983/84.*
[e] *A Directory of Medical Libraries in New York State, 1985*
[f] *New York State Library: 1984* and 1984-85 ARL Questionnaire
NA – Data not available

New York State Library
November 1985

Public Library Systems

serve more than 40 percent of the population of the State. In 1984 the total public library operating expenditure in New York State was $336 million. The main financial support for public libraries in New York State (an average of 69 percent) comes from local public funds ($238 million in 1984). The average per capita expenditure for public library service (including that for public library systems) in 1984 was $19.12.

The Regents of The University of the State of New York charter (i.e., incorporate) the public libraries. A library serves a village, town, city, county, school district, a combination of these units, or in exceptional cases a special library district established by the Legislature. These libraries are subject to State Education Law and to the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education. A board of trustees governs each library, with specific powers and responsibilities under Education Law. Each public library board is autonomous. The four major types of public libraries (and the number in the State) are:

Municipal (208). Created by a village, town, city, or county government (5-11 trustees appointed by local government).

Association (394). Created by a membership association. Contracts with a unit of government or a school district to provide library services (5-25 trustees elected by the membership of the association).

School district (122). Created by vote of the school district electorate or a city board of education (5-11 trustees elected by the voters of the district or appointed by a city board of education).

Special district (8). Created by the State Legislature to serve a part of one or more municipalities. Appointment of trustees varies, depending on the legislation that established the districts.

PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS PROFILE I: MEMBERSHIP, RESOURCES AND USE, 1984

System	Type	Population 1980 Census	Square Miles	Number of Counties	Number of Members	Total Holdings	Per Capita Holdings	Total Circulation	Per Capita Circulation
Brooklyn Public	C	2,230,844	70	1	1	4,241,173	1.90	8,761,337	3.93
Buffalo and Erie County	F	1,015,472	1,046	1	24	4,057,762	3.99	6,230,365	6.14
Chautauqua-Cattaraugus	Co	232,622	2,370	2	34	1,118,597	4.81	1,780,130	7.65
Chemung-Southern Tier	Co-F	287,760	3,507	5	36	1,249,194	4.34	1,403,688	4.88
Clinton-Essex-Franklin	F	161,855	4,491	3	29	768,399	4.75	785,672	4.85
Finger Lakes	Co	299,344	2,519	5	29	826,534	2.76	1,231,607	4.11
Four County	Co	368,891	4,052	4	43	1,330,293	3.61	2,380,228	6.45
Mid-Hudson	Co	549,962	2,948	4.8	64	1,447,581	2.63	2,204,007	4.01
Mid-York	Co	385,330	3,292	3	43	1,427,608	3.70	1,809,326	4.70
Mohawk Valley	Co	288,248	1,730	4	13	955,093	3.31	1,255,706	4.36
Nassau	Co	1,321,582	287	1	54	7,806,603	5.91	11,174,052	8.46
New York Public	C				1				
– Branch Libraries		2,949,470	123	3		5,823,114	1.97	9,031,360	3.06
– Research Libraries		7,071,639[1]	302[1]			27,338,834	3.87		
Nioga	Co	325,250	1,412	3	20	1,231,007	3.78	1,637,685	5.04
North Country	Co	341,341	6,239	4	63	1,234,708	3.62	1,581,255	4.63
Onondaga County	F	463,920	785	1	20	1,455,565	3.14	2,691,500	5.80
Pioneer	Co-F	972,629	3,140	5	60	3,262,759	3.35	7,251,963	7.46
Queens Borough	C	1,891,325	109	1	1	7,760,106	4.10	9,633,692	5.09
Ramapo Catskill	Co	615,080	2,481	3.2	46	2,008,033	3.26	3,085,261	5.02
Southern Adirondack	Co	268,442	4,250	4	29	892,591	3.33	1,269,372	4.73
Suffolk Cooperative	Co	1,284,231	912	1	54	6,009,281	4.68	10,522,418	8.19
Upper Hudson	Co	437,875	1,178	2	25	1,453,114	3.32	2,067,560	4.72
Westchester	Co	866,599	438	1	38	4,481,246	5.17	5,914,565	6.83
TOTAL		17,558,072	47,379	62	727	88,177,195	5.02	93,702,749	5.34

[1] not included in totals
C – Consolidated; F – Federated; Co – Cooperative; Co-F – Co-federated
Source: *Public and Association Libraries Statistics, 1984*

New York State Library
December 1985

Public Library Systems. The 22 public library systems authorized by Education Law (dating back to 1950) have as members all but three of the 732 public libraries in the State. The Board of Regents charters the public library systems, which operate under plans of service approved by the Commissioner of Education.

Typical functions of a public library system are: coordination of services and functions through cooperation; extension of service to all parts of the area; cooperative development of central library collections; education and in-service training; experimentation and evaluation; resource sharing through union catalog services, loan of film and video materials, interlibrary loan, interface with NYSILL, and delivery service; and program development.

State support for public library services is made available through the 22 public library systems. In 1986, this support amounts to $45.9 million. Of this sum, $6.7 million is earmarked as Local Library Incentive Aid to be shared with all member libraries and $5.4 million is designated for the central library programs. The remainder is expended by the systems for programs and support services reinforcing local libraries. The statutory formula for State aid to public libraries establishes the amounts which the State Education Department distributes to the systems. The formula includes:

per capita payments	$11.9 million
reimbursement for library materials expenditures	9.0 million
payments based on square miles served	2.2 million
payments based on number of counties served	1.5 million
central library aid	5.4 million
local library incentive aid	6.7 million
earmarked aid for The Research Libraries, NYPL	4.8 million
earmarked aid for Brooklyn, Buffalo & Erie, Nassau	.4 million
coordinated outreach	1.9 million
aid for services to State-operated correctional facilities	.3 million

System payments in 1986 range from $777,582 to Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System (population 161,855) to $11.5 million to The New York Public Library (population served, 2,949,470). The latter payment includes $4.8 million specifically earmarked for the Research Libraries.

There are four types of public library systems in New York State. A *consolidated system* is chartered as a single entity under a board of trustees; all libraries are branches of the main library. These include the Brooklyn Public Library, The New York Public Library and the Queens Borough Public Library.

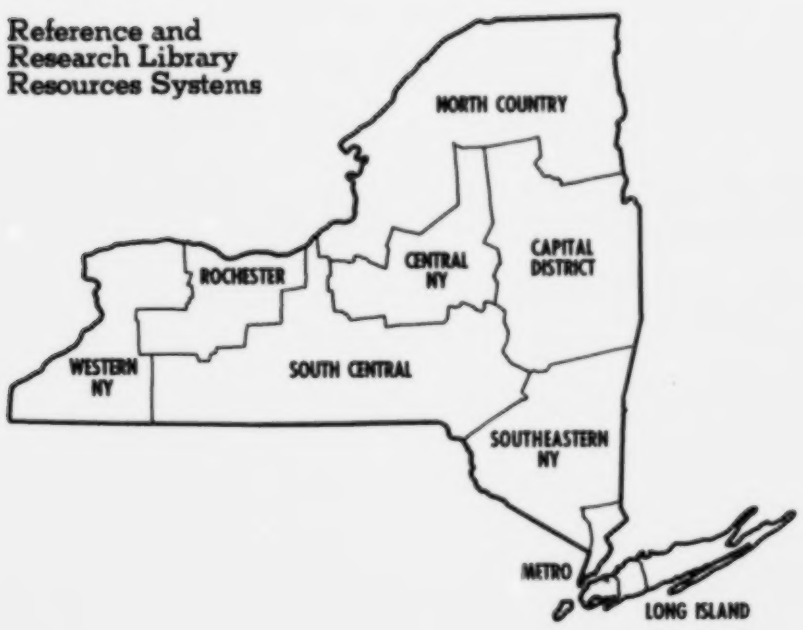
A *federated system* is created by action of the board or boards of supervisors or legislature of the county or counties involved, while the members (legally chartered libraries) retain their own independent boards. Clinton-Essex-Franklin Library System, Onondaga County Public Library

PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEMS PROFILE II: FINANCIAL SUPPORT 1984

System	Total Support	Per Capita Support	Total Expenditures	Per Capita Expenditures	State Aid	Per Capita State Aid
Brooklyn Public	$29,573,351	$13.26	$ 29,674,941	$13.30	$ 4,547,682	$2.04
Buffalo and Erie	15,610,471	15.37	16,369,097	16.12	2,024,682	1.99
Chautauqua-Cattaraugus	3,214,172	13.82	3,216,277	13.83	1,043,389	4.49
Chemung-Southern Tier	3,464,212	12.04	3,497,447	12.15	938,571	3.26
Clinton-Essex-Franklin	1,840,089	11.37	2,439,564	15.07	876,951	5.42
Finger Lakes	2,824,288	9.43	2,753,895	9.20	891,820	2.98
Four County	5,038,666	13.66	4,357,248	11.81	1,053,368	2.86
Mid-Hudson	5,582,425	10.15	5,247,462	9.54	1,355,756	2.47
Mid-York	3,923,070	10.18	3,885,919	10.08	972,753	2.52
Mohawk Valley	3,533,060	12.26	3,900,289	13.53	853,499	2.96
Nassau	43,789,293	33.13	45,699,833	34.58	2,694,555	2.04
New York Public						
– Branch Libraries	42,415,264	14.38	42,415,264	14.38	5,912,200	2.00
– Research Libraries	40,515,667	5.73	40,515,666	5.73	5,773,441	0.82
Nioga	4,012,695	12.34	3,880,778	11.93	861,375	2.65
North Country	3,708,451	10.86	4,033,509	11.82	1,155,092	3.38
Onondaga County	7,127,311	15.36	7,510,568	16.19	971,556	2.09
Pioneer	14,260,411	14.66	14,944,955	15.37	2,199,201	2.26
Queens Borough	31,556,164	16.68	29,059,068	15.36	3,722,225	1.97
Ramapo Catskill	11,208,363	18.22	11,849,736	19.27	1,380,687	2.24
Southern Adirondack	2,674,150	9.96	2,792,967	10.40	926,026	3.45
Suffolk Cooperative	37,309,718	29.05	38,197,757	29.74	2,175,375	1.69
Upper Hudson	6,045,892	13.81	5,718,668	13.06	1,097,899	2.51
Westchester	25,446,041	29.36	25,394,644	29.30	1,792,617	2.07
TOTAL	$344,673,224	$19.63	$347,355,552	$19.78	$45,220,720	$2.58

Source: *Public and Association Libraries Statistics 1984*

New York State Library
December 1985



and Buffalo-Erie County Public Library are federated library systems.

A *cooperative system* is an association created by agreement of the boards of chartered member libraries, which retain their autonomy. There are 14 Cooperative systems: Chautauqua-Cattaraugus; Finger Lakes; Four County; Mid-Hudson; Mid-York; Mohawk Valley; Nassau; Nioga; North Country; Ramapo Catskill; Southern Adirondack; Suffolk Cooperative; Upper Hudson; and Westchester.

Chemung-Southern Tier and the Pioneer Systems are sometimes identified as *co-federated* library systems. The Chemung-Southern Tier system was formed as a confederation of the Steele Memorial Library of Chemung County System (a federated system) and the Southern Tier Library System (cooperative). The Pioneer Library System is a confederation of the Livingston (federated), Monroe (federated), Ontario (cooperative), Wayne (federated) and Wyoming (cooperative) county library systems.

Member library boards elect the boards of trustees of cooperative systems. The parent governmental units of consolidated and federated library systems appoint their boards. Each library system has a legally designated central library or co-central libraries from which member libraries receive systemwide reference and interloan services.

Reference and Research Library Resources Systems. Reference and Research Library Resources Systems are regional associations of libraries in publicly and privately supported colleges and universities, special libraries (both in corporate and not-for-profit organizations), public library systems, and school library systems. The Board of Regents charters the systems, which operate under plans of service approved by the Commissioner of Education. Boundaries of the systems match those of public library systems. In 1985 State support for these systems was $2.6 million (a $200,000 base grant, plus four cents per capita and $1 per square mile). Payments range from $230,858 for North Country to $518,270 for METRO.

A basic goal of these systems is the sharing of resources to meet the reference and information needs of the library user, students and faculty of institutions of higher education, the professions,

and others. Among the services the reference and research systems offer are: interlibrary loan; staff education and in-service training; delivery services; improved communication among libraries; production of union lists and bibliographic control programs; microfilming and preservation programs; cooperative use of computer- based systems; reciprocal access; and interface with the New York State Interlibrary Loan System (NYSILL). These systems also coordinate and administer State aid programs such as the hospital library services program and the coordinated collection development program. The hospital program was authorized to bring rural hospital libraries into resource sharing programs and in 1984 it was expanded to include urban hospitals. The coordinated collection development program provides grants totalling $1.2 million to public or nonprofit independent colleges or universities located in New York State that agree to share resources through the reference and research systems.

Nine systems cover the entire State. Their members include all 22 public library systems, the 48 school library systems, and about 750 other libraries, including academic and research libraries, special libraries, hospital, and other health agency libraries. Regulations of the Commissioner of Education establish standards of membership. The systems are governed by boards of trustees elected by the membership. These boards include representatives of member libraries, public library systems, and lay persons from the research community served by the system.

School Library Media Centers. New York State has some 4,000 school library media centers within school buildings operated by 725 local Boards of Education. Commissioner's Regulations require libraries in all public schools, but librarians are required only in secondary schools. Approximately 3,250 school librarians staff the libraries in public schools.

Almost 2.6 million children attend public schools and over 5 million attend nonpublic schools. Approximately 39 percent of the students are in the five largest cities (New York City, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers). Most school districts are relatively small. Only 78 serve 5,000 or more students, and 118 serve fewer than 500.

The Regents 1984 *Action Plan to Improve Elementary and Secondary Education Results in New York State* and the corresponding changes to part 100 of Commissioner's Regulations require changes in education that will increase the need for quality school library service. Because of the *Action Plan* requirements, there will be an increase in the study of second languages, science, mathematics, social studies and other fields. Cross-disciplinary approaches, and an emphasis on logical and creative thinking and problem solving, are creating new expectations for library services and use. The school library must help students develop the skills and attitudes needed to become lifelong learners.

School Library Systems. The need for new, often expensive, materials to support curriculum and the need to draw from a growing number of information sources now make it impossible for a school library to stand alone. Like other libraries, school library media centers find it difficult to have the wide range of books, periodicals, pamphlets, maps, films and other materials their users need. School libraries in New York are members of systems that make it possible for them to participate effectively in broader resource sharing involving all types of libraries.

In 1984, the State Legislature, after five years of support for twelve pilot school library systems to test methods for resource sharing, authorized establishment of school library systems based upon the State's 43 Boards of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) and the five large city school districts. Nonpublic school libraries are eligible to participate in the systems. The systems, which began operation in school year 1985- 86, are supported by State aid totalling $3.9 million. Systems qualify for aid on the basis of an approved plan of service, and aid is allocated on the basis of size system. Forty-three systems serve

100,000 pupils and receive $65,000 annually; three serve up to 200,000 pupils and receive $90,000; and one system, which serves more than 500,000 pupils, receives $700,000.

Each system will develop a computer-based union catalog, which will list the books, periodicals, and other library materials in the school libraries comprising the system. Each system will develop an interlibrary loan and delivery system to make it easy for any school library to share resources. To tap the resources of public, academic and other libraries, each system is a member of one of the nine Reference and Research Library Resources Systems.

SCHOOL LIBRARY SYSTEMS

(arranged by Reference and Research Library Resource Systems)

CAPITAL DISTRICT

- Albany-Schoharie-Schenectady
- Hamilton-Fulton
- Saratoga-Warren
- Washington-Warren

CENTRAL NEW YORK

- Herkimer
- Madison-Oneida
- Oneida-Madison
- Onondaga-Madison
- Syracuse City

LONG ISLAND

- Nassau
- Suffolk 1
- Suffolk 2
- Suffolk 3

METRO

- New York City
- Putnam-Northern
- Westchester 2
- Yonkers City

NORTH COUNTRY

- Clinton-Essex
- Franklin-Essex
- Jefferson-Lewis
- Oswego
- St. Lawrence

ROCHESTER

- Livingston-Steuben-Wyoming
- Monroe 1
- Monroe 2-Orleans
- Rochester City
- Wayne-Finger Lakes

SOUTH CENTRAL

- Broome-Delaware-Tioga
- Cayuga-Onondaga
- Cortland
- Delaware-Chenango
- Otsego-Northern Catskills
- Schuyler-Chemung-Tioga
- Steuben-Allegany
- Tompkins-Seneca

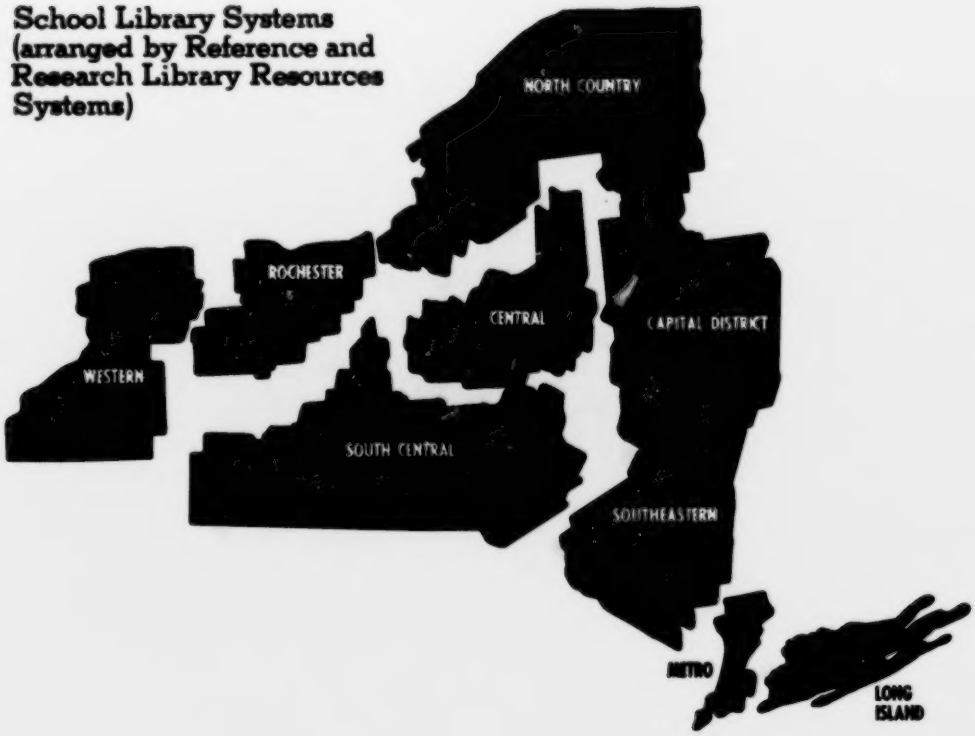
SOUTHEASTERN

- Dutchess
- Orange-Ulster
- Rensselaer-Columbia-Greene
- Rockland
- Sullivan
- Ulster

WESTERN NEW YORK

- Buffalo City
- Cattaraugus-Allegany
- Chautauqua
- Erie 1
- Erie 2-Cattaraugus
- Genesee-Wyoming
- Orleans-Niagara

School Library Systems (arranged by Reference and Research Library Resources Systems)



Institution Libraries. An estimated 96,000 persons are confined in more than 230 public institutions administered by various State agencies, New York City, and the counties. The administrators of these institutions and the agencies of which they are a part determine what library services these institutions provide. There are 170 libraries in State-operated correctional, youth, mental health, and health facilities.

Chapter 718 of the *Laws of 1981* provided outreach funds to each library system to expand services to several groups, including institutionalized persons. Residents of correctional facilities, hospitals, youth facilities, nursing homes, developmental centers, and psychiatric centers are among the people benefitting from this new legislation. Since 1974, there have been modest annual appropriations, now $175,000, for extension of public library system services to local correctional institutions. In 1984, legislation was enacted to provide State aid to public library systems that provide services to State-operated correctional facilities based upon $9.25 per inmate, or approximately $300,000 annually. Sixteen public library systems provide such services.

College and University Libraries. The library resources of colleges and universities are an important part of the State's total library resources. New York State has more institutions of higher education than any other state except California and has the second largest student enrollment. Sixty-nine percent of high school graduates continue their education. In 1985 there were 246 degree-granting institutions of higher education in the State, of which 83 were public, 135 independent, and 28 proprietary. Almost a million persons are enrolled in these institutions on a full-time or part-time basis. Of the total student body, 56 percent attend public institutions and 44 percent attend independent and proprietary institutions. When divided according to graduate and undergraduate enrollments, almost 32 percent of the graduate students, 17 percent of the first-professional degree students, and about 62

percent of the undergraduates attend public institutions.

Academic library holdings total 58 million volumes. Of these, almost 66 percent are held by institutions in the independent sector, and almost 32 percent are held by public institutions. Eight university libraries in New York State (Columbia, Cornell, New York University, Rochester, Syracuse, SUNY Albany, SUNY Buffalo, and SUNY Stony Brook) meet the standards of the Association of Research Libraries (The New York Public Library and the New York State Library are also ARL members).

The State University of New York (SUNY) is one of two major public higher education systems in the State. Founded in 1948, the SUNY system consists of 4 university centers, 2 health sciences centers, 13 colleges of arts and sciences, 4 specialized colleges, 5 statutory colleges administered in cooperation with Cornell University and Alfred University, 6 agricultural and technical colleges, and 30 locally sponsored community colleges. In fall 1985, almost 370,000 students were enrolled in SUNY.

The State University is governed by a Board of Trustees (appointed by the Governor) which determines the policies to be followed by the 34 State-supported campuses. The community colleges are governed by local boards of trustees. A central administrative unit provides coordinated direction of services to all units of the University. This includes an office for the coordination of SUNY library services.

SUNY library holdings include 13.3 million volumes.

The City University of New York (CUNY) dates from 1847, when the people of New York City established by referendum the Free Academy. The seven municipal colleges became The City University of New York in 1961. The CUNY system (19 units located throughout the five boroughs of metropolitan New York) consists of 11 four-year colleges, 6 two-year colleges, a graduate school and university center, and a school of law. In fall 1985 CUNY enrollment totalled over 180,000 students.

The City University's governing body is a Board of Trustees. Ten members are appointed by the Governor, and five by the Mayor of the City of New York, all with the advice and consent of the Senate.

CUNY library holdings number over 4.5 million volumes.

PROFILE OF SYSTEMS AND LIBRARIES BY REGION

Intersystem Region/Area	Public Library Systems	Public Library System Members	School Library Systems	Academic Libraries	Special and Institution Libraries	Population	Land Area
Capital District	3	67	4	18	25	994,565	7,158
Central New York	2	63	5	14	23	849,250	4,077
Long Island	2	108	4	26	70	2,605,813	1,199
Metropolitan (New York City)	4	41*	4	72	1,900	7,938,238	740
North Country	2	92	5	12	31	503,196	10,730
Rochester	1	60	5	11	37	972,629	3,140
South Central	3	108	8	18	46	955,995	10,078
Southeastern	2	110	6	17	50	1,165,042	5,429
Western New York	3	78	7	18	69	1,573,344	4,828
Total	22	727	48	266	2,268	17,558,072	47,379

* Does not include 200 branches in the Brooklyn, New York Public, and Queens systems.

The 135 independent colleges and universities of New York are independent educational institutions, each with a charter from the Board of Regents or the Legislature and each with its own Board of Trustees. They include 11 universities, 55 college complexes and colleges, 8 engineering and technical schools, 18 health science centers and specialized colleges, 24 two-year colleges and 19 seminaries. The fall 1985 enrollment for the independent colleges and universities was 404,000.

There are, in addition, 28 proprietary colleges (proprietary colleges are private profit-making institutions which provide training in specific skills) such as the Laboratory Institute of Merchandising and the Jamestown Business College. All but two are two-year schools. Over 30,000 students were enrolled in these schools in fall 1985.

Library holdings of independent colleges and universities include almost 37 million volumes and holdings of the proprietary schools include some 105,000 volumes.

State Appropriations for Higher Education, FY 1985-86

	(in millions)
SUNY	$1,300.3
CUNY	588.1
Community Colleges	257.8
Bundy Aid	108.1
Medical/Dental Capitation	17.6
College Work-study Reimbursement	5.2
Programs for the Disadvantaged	59.1
Student Aid	425.8
Other	44.7
Total	$2,806.7

The Regents Statewide Plan for the Development of Postsecondary Education in New York State, 1984, provides directions for the State and New York's public, independent, and proprietary colleges and universities for the late 80's. To accomplish five goals – access, excellence, employment and economic development, diversity, and effective use of resources – the 1984 Statewide Plan calls on the higher education community to undertake a series of specific actions and makes recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature. The Regents top priorities for higher education, as expressed in the Plan, are the extension of access and excellence.

In the 1984 Plan, the Regents retained the objectives they set in their 1980 Plan, including those related specifically to academic libraries in the areas of library collection development, increased bibliographic access to library resources, provision of library user instruction, and expanded interlibrary loan.

The 1984 Plan proposes a number of actions by colleges and universities that are likely to affect demands on their library collections and services. These include: increased assistance to members of minority groups enrolled in programs leading to professional licensure; elimination of barriers for the disabled; development of Master of Arts in Teaching or similar graduate programs for teachers of mathematics, the sciences, foreign languages, special education, and occupational education; provision of academic services at times convenient for nontraditional students; expansion of language studies, area studies, studies of international commerce, and courses and other learning activities in other disciplines to enhance understanding of foreign cultures; development of graduate-level area studies programs; maintaining and building on the knowledge, skills, and attitudes developed in a liberal arts education while providing technical skills; and expanded efforts at the doctoral level in engineering, computer science, mathematics, and the physical and biological sciences by institutions offering such doctoral programs.

In the 1984 Plan, the Regents also specifically call on all colleges and universities to "take steps to assure the continued adequacy of their library collections to support their programs of study and research"; and recommend that the Governor "seek from the Legislature increased support for the cooperative efforts linking academic and research libraries with one another and with

special libraries, public libraries, and school libraries in networks that provide a wide range of access to resources."

One of the four major aims in the 1984 master plan of The City University of New York is "To revitalize library resources throughout the City University." City University intends to revitalize library resources at every campus, but sees increased funding as critically necessary. On behalf of independent institutions, the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities called for a review of the current support of the New York interlibrary lending system, and increased participation in OCLC. The degree-granting proprietary institutions expressed an intent to continue cooperating with library systems.

Generally, the Regents are concerned about the need of academic libraries to maintain, develop, and preserve their collections; to assure adequate training and in-service education for librarians; and to acquire, and maintain the technological equipment needed for automation and participation in networks.

New York State Interlibrary Loan. New York State Interlibrary Loan (NYSILL) program, established in 1967, is a computerized library network that assures access to research libraries. Library users may gain access to NYSILL through any local library, which first requests its system to locate and provide the needed material. Requests that cannot be satisfied within the system or region are sent to the State Library from one of the 56 NYSILL telecommunications sites. These requests are sent by microprocessor or other telecommunication equipment to transmit to the computer in the Education Department. The New York State Library serves as a central resource and referral center for the NYSILL network. The libraries to which it refers unfilled requests are:

American Museum of Natural History
Buffalo and Erie County Public Library
Columbia University
Cornell University
Engineering Societies Library
New York Academy of Medicine
The New York Public Library
New York University
Teachers College
Union Theological Seminary

The NYSILL telecommunications network provides an interface with the Regional Medical Library (RML) network, the Metropolitan Inter-Library Cooperation System (MILCS), and the Research Libraries Network (RLIN). The microcomputer network provides transmission sites access to the State Library's catalog. Delivery service has been improved through use of commercial carriers and cooperation with SUNY/OCLC.

In 1985 an Interlibrary Loan Redesign Advisory Committee assisted in a major study of interlibrary loan service in New York State. The results of this study, completed in January, 1986, will be evaluated in 1986 as a basis for improving interlibrary service throughout the State.

OCLC. OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) is a computer system serving libraries from its headquarters in Dublin, Ohio. This shared bibliographic system offers a variety of library and information services and serves some 4,000 libraries in 50 states, Canada, Mexico, and Europe. Some 236 of the libraries are in New York State. OCLC began in 1969 as a not-for-profit educational consortium with the objectives of containing increases in library costs and increasing the availability of resources. It maintains a growing database on the order of 12 million bibliographic records, along with their locations in about 4,000 libraries—a total of some 100 million item locations. Academic libraries, public library systems, school libraries, and State agency libraries are among OCLC participants.

OCLC services are generally made available through regional networks. In New York State, the State University of New York contracts with OCLC in behalf of all types of libraries and the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Library Services of the SUNY Central Administration and a staff of 10 persons provide training and related network services. The system is self-supporting through fees charged the

member libraries. The SUNY/OCLC network is advised by a 13-member State University of New York Network Advisory Committee (SONAC).

Research Libraries Information Network (RLIN). Nine libraries in New York, including some of the largest research libraries, now participate in the Research Libraries Group, Inc., which includes Research Libraries Information Network. RLIN members are Columbia University, Cornell University, The New York Public Library, New York University, the University of Rochester, and the four SUNY University Centers. Their combined holdings exceed 26 million volumes. The RLIN on-line database includes about 5 million bibliographic records and shows their locations in the 35-member research libraries — approximately 30 million holding locations. RLIN is developing on-line subject access, authority files, and intersystem linking capabilities; the latter is being developed in conjunction with the Library of Congress and the Washington Library Network (WLN).

MILCS: Metropolitan Interlibrary Cooperative System. Over 2 million titles, showing 12 million holdings, are recorded in the MILCS database maintained by the New York Public Library LIONS (Library Information On-line Systems) facility. In addition to its on-line services, LIONS generates a computer-produced microfiche catalog of the NYPL catalog and a single catalog of the holdings of the Brooklyn Public Library and the 82 branches of The New York Public Library. In addition, the MILCS database is used to produce catalogs for libraries in Nassau, Suffolk, and Westchester Counties, and constitutes a major resource for the State.

Government Documents Depository Libraries. The variety and scope of government documents of all jurisdictions offer libraries a rich source of acquisitions to meet the entire range of community needs. Improved awareness of and access to these publications have a high priority.

The State Library (a Regional Depository for Federal publications) and the 90 selective depositories within New York State have developed a coordinated State plan for Federal Depository library service. Elements of the plan are collection and staff development, regional cooperative acquisitions and retention, improved communications and bibliographic awareness among depositories, strengthened on-site and interlibrary loan services, and greater emphasis on publicizing the availability of Federal information. An Advisory Council on Federal Depository Library Service was established in 1983 to implement the plan and evaluate accomplishments.

Ninety-nine libraries in New York State are depositories for publications of New York State government. Libraries in the depository program are chosen on the basis of location and for their ability to maintain a documents collection and make it available to the public. As a result every New York State resident can consult State government publications in a nearby library.

Health Information Library Services. The federally funded Regional Medical Library (RML) network, operating under a contract between the New York Academy of Medicine and the National Library of Medicine, provides access to specialized health information resources in the Northeast (RML Region I). In New York State, five libraries serve as resource libraries: Columbia University Health Sciences Library, the Medical Library Center of New York, the New York Academy of Medicine, State University at Buffalo Health Sciences Library, and the State University Upstate Medical Center Library. These libraries have direct access to the State Library's on-line catalog and the NYSILL telecommunications system through microcomputer terminals. In addition, 15 other New York State libraries serve as Area Libraries in the RML network.

During 1984-85 the five resource libraries received 207,775 Region I interlibrary loan requests from libraries in New York State for health information materials. Of these requests, 168,411 were filled and 28,863 were referred to other libraries. Because the New York Academy of Medicine also serves as a resource library for the NYSILL network, NYSILL requests not filled by the

Academy may be switched to RML resource libraries in other states and the National Library of Medicine; RML libraries in New York State may access NYSILL directly.

Under legislation enacted in 1981, the New York State Library entered into a contract with the New York Academy of Medicine to purchase Library Service Coupons for use by the Reference and Research Library Resources Systems. These coupons are used to obtain interlibrary loan services from subcontracting libraries in the RML program. Coupons are allocated by the State Library among the reference and research library systems using a formula based on the number of health-related institutions in each region. Within the regions the coupons are distributed according to a plan developed by each system.

The purpose of this program is to improve access to health information in New York State, make the resources of the RML network directly accessible by libraries in the reference and research library regions, encourage the full use of local and regional health information resources before accessing other resources in the RML and NYSILL networks, and facilitate referrals to the most appropriate locations in both networks.

In addition, each reference and research library system has a program to provide services to hospital libraries enabling these libraries to meet standards established by the Regents, and to participate in resource sharing networks.

"A popular government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a Farce or a Tragedy; or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who means to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives."

—James Madison.
1822

Library Resources Sharing in New York State and Technological Change

Library resource sharing in New York State is grounded in the 35 years of systems development described in the previous chapter. The systems, which cover the entire State, provide the means by which library resources are made available to all the residents of the State. These systems, and the State Library, have a long-standing commitment to use of technology to improve services, increase efficiency, and constrain cost increases.

The State Library's initiatives in adoption of technology include use of a mainframe computer for interlibrary loan communications since the 1960's, telefacsimile experimentation, an online catalog since 1980, and systematic use of OCLC and other databases since 1980 in building a statewide machine-readable union list of serials.

The public library systems, reference and research library systems, and school library systems use technology to achieve the Regents goal of timely and free access to a full range of information resources and services through local libraries within systems and networks. Together, these systems, with State assistance under the regional database program approved by the Legislature in 1984, are using the bibliographic utilities identified in the previous chapter to develop a statewide machine-readable database of resources.

The regional database program requires library systems in each of the nine library regions of the State to develop a plan for a regional database which meets national and state standards, thus providing a means by which any library in New York State can identify bibliographic and holdings records throughout the State. Once identified, the systems' services provide access to the needed materials or reproductions of these materials.

In December 1984 the systems completed a data conversion plan for the 1985-1989 period. These plans identified a universe of 57 million monographic holdings records, and approximately 37 percent of these records were in machine-readable form. These machine-readable records in New York generally conform to accepted standards, existing variously at the State Library, on the MILCS/LIONS database (New York City), on the RLIN database (Stanford University), on OCLC (Ohio), on the University of Toronto Library Automation Systems (UTLAS) database in Toronto, and in a number of local data files produced by private vendors for contracting libraries in New York. Some 400,000 serials database records, or some 37 percent of the estimated one million records, are in machine- readable form. Most of these are in OCLC, and serials additions to the RLIN database are expected to grow rapidly. The regional database programs and rapid technological change are affecting library automation and resource sharing.

The library systems, machine-readable database development, and telecommunication programs which underlie resource sharing in New York State have been systematically assisted by studies and evaluations. LSCA funds have underwritten part or

all of the costs of such studies as the Peat, Marwick and Mitchell study of the MILCS database (1979); a Richard Anable plan for a New York State union list of serials (1981); an Online Computer Systems study of communications requirements, technology, and options in the South Central Region (1981); Ralph Shoffner and Regan-Gossage plans for METRO area union list of serials (1983); a union list of serials study by Ralph Shoffner (1984); and a statewide interlibrary loan study (1985). In addition, the 1980-81 Commissioner's Committee on Statewide Library Development made recommendations on expanded use of technology for resource sharing. These studies and suggestions propose that future library automation and resource sharing in New York and elsewhere will be strongly influenced by such elements as:

- large data files
- use of a range of computer sizes from micro to mainframe
- large numbers of computers in use, eventually an average of more than one for each of New York's 7,600 libraries
- distributed rather than centralized systems
- telecommunications networks linking libraries and their various computers and databases
- continuing automation within libraries to the point where all major functions in most libraries will make use of computers and associated technology and
- remote access by library users via home computers or subscription-based videotex terminals and networks.

These developments will affect users as well as libraries. Just as more libraries can afford more computing power, so can their users. Microcomputers will become as ubiquitous as telephones and television sets, and libraries will be expected to offer remote-access services for their users who have computers. Mass marketing of on-line computer services and of videotex and teletext services will fuel demand for remote access to libraries and information resources. The variety of computerized library systems poses a challenge to all concerned with automation and resource sharing.

Three Automation Action Programs

Automation is an important tool for meeting goals of facilitating resource sharing, statewide access to information, and cost-effective library operations. Three action programs are needed to make effective use of automation:

- Continued development of a statewide *database* of machine-readable bibliographic and nonbibliographic records[1] resident in several computer systems and utilities with the expectation of linking these regionally, statewide, and nationally;
- A statewide library *telecommunications network* to link local and regional systems, to provide access to national networks, and to provide integrated services using the library database and communications network;
- A strong and formal automation *consulting* capability within the State Library, and through an informal network of practitioners in the State.

Two basic principles underlie these action programs: (1) State-level services and automation assistance will be provided to programs that facilitate broad regional and statewide resource sharing, and (2) libraries will budget local funds for automated operations, just as they now budget for manual functions and activities. State investment in regional databases and other automation programs, through a combination of LSCA funds

[1] Including (1) the machine-readable cataloging records of New York State Libraries produced by OCLC, RLIN, NYPL, UTLAS, commercial vendors, and local libraries; (2) the complete CONSER file for New York Libraries; (3) index of New York library collection strengths, special collection descriptions, archive descriptions, etc., in searchable form; (4) statewide "community information and referral" data and index, including a directory of nonlibrary expert resources.

and State aid, will assist local libraries and systems to mount their own on-line catalogs and automated systems. The program is also based upon the following assumptions:

(1) There will continue to be diversity in approaches to automation regardless of State policies and regardless of how much public money can be applied to the use of technology.

(2) There will continue to be rapid development in technology: costs will come down, and capabilities at each general cost level will increase.

(3) Technology will become as much a part of everyday operations of libraries as manual systems are now, to the point where, eventually, every library in New York can afford to be part of a totally integrated computer system.

(4) Library users will continue to become more sophisticated in the use of computers, especially microcomputers; eventually most users will make daily use of such computers and will expect some portion of that use to include remote access to library databases, information and services.

(5) Continuing and significant changes in technology, political environment, and financial resources available will require modifications to this plan from time to time.

Database Development. As noted above, some 37 percent of the State's monographic and serials holdings records are in machine-readable form. Although resident on several computer systems, these records constitute a statewide database which is growing rapidly and systematically as a result of the 1984 regional databases legislation and LSCA support. Because the size of library holdings and accomplishment in automation vary from region to region, the status of database development varies from region to region. While libraries and library systems in the New York City metropolitan area have been leaders in automation, the sheer size of holdings will require massive work over the next few years. In some upstate regions in which most serials and monographic holdings of public, academic, and special libraries are in machine-readable form, significant work remains to be done to bring into the databases school library systems holdings, government publications, and special collections.

The State Library will continue to work with library systems in regional and statewide planning for database development and automation which results in the further development of the statewide database. State aid and LSCA grants will be made for the further development of the database.

Telecommunication Networks. Telecommunication and automation have become intricately dependent upon each other. Computers provide intelligence to communications sytems which, in turn, support distributed computer systems and networks. Network designs are no longer predicated solely on centralized facilities, but the state of the art has not solved the problems presented by totally distributed networks. Thus, for the foreseeable future, networks will be of a "mixed mode" design, including both centralized and decentralized features, as well as providing both "hierarchical" and point-to-point communication among libraries. The goals of New York's library telecommunications network are to:

- provide both point-to-point and hierarchical communication among libraries on the network;
- allow unlike computer and application systems to communicate with each other as easily as possible within cost constraints;
- provide communication links to libraries and service suppliers outside the State;
- evolve smoothly and economically to take advantage of advances in technology.

The State Library will continue to support development activities related to the network and encourage adaptation of linking systems developed elsewhere. The library will also provide statewide access to the State Library's on-line

catalog, and provide electronic mail, electronic bulletin boards, and forum and group messaging capabilities.

The first State Library experimentation with electronic mail was through the NYSILL point-to-point message transmission in 1982. In 1985, the State Library began an 18-month experimental New York Library Line (NYLINE) information network based on the American Library Association's ALANET service. NYLINE serves some 100 participants, including 21 public library systems, 9 reference and research library systems, 45 school library systems, and 20 central libraries. Services include direct and group electronic mail, electronic bulletin boards, and access to other electronic message services. The system is to be evaluated in September, 1986.

Automation Consulting. Automation has become a dominant factor in library operation and management. It is inherently complex, its technology changes rapidly, its introduction in any specific library is likely to be stressful, and automation now in use in libraries is having significant impact on those libraries which have not yet begun to automate. Libraries and library systems contemplating automation need assistance.

The State Library automation consulting expertise and service will be expanded. In addition, there will be the need to draw upon the expertise of automation practitioners and network specialists. The staffs of library systems increasingly include automation specialists who should constitute an important resource for cooperative development and expertise. The SUNY/OCLC network staff and automation specialists in libraries are also an important part of the State's automation talent pool.

Principles Underlying the Program

Experience with automation, with LSCA grants, and with the regional database program has demonstrated the significance of seven principles which will be important in the near future. The following seven principles underlie the subsequent library program objective number 6 for effective use of technology, affirming that the libraries in New York should:

(1) ensure compatibility of data by adhering to national standards;

(2) build upon machine-readable data already available to decrease costs of data conversion and system implementation;

(3) generate current machine-readable data as a by-product of day-to-day library operations;

(4) target limited state and LSCA funds on projects that encourage resource sharing and demonstrate a strong local and system commitment to automation;

(5) recognize that bibliographic data generated with public funds should be treated as being in the public domain and available for regional or statewide use;

(6) ensure that all types of libraries have equal access to such public-domain bibliographic data;

(7) provide access to the developing national and multi-state networks such as OCLC, RLIN, SOLINET, and WLN.

The State cannot underwrite the entire cost of automating libraries throughout the State. The State's limited financial assistance, within priorities outlined later in the plan, will emphasize planning, initial implementation, and transferability of systems and data. Costs of ongoing automation and operations should be budgeted by each library or library system from its own funding sources. The State supports regional automation programs because they improve services provided by libraries that are members of systems. The State Library and the national networks provide services which are of a statewide nature and which are not practical to provide either regionally or locally.

Constraints on Library Services and Priority Needs

Library services are shaped by laws, funds and funding sources, actions of decision makers who provide resources, and the vision and energies of library policymakers, administrators, and staffs. Services are also shaped by the expectations of users and the people who support libraries. In recent years, they are increasingly affected by technological change. Libraries are confronted by new technology which is fundamentally changing their services and operations. At the same time, they cope with a greatly increased volume of published materials, an expanding variety of forms of media, and increase in the cost of published materials. Rapid advances in computer technology and telecommunications are transforming methods of handling and transferring information. These changes affect almost every aspect of American life and create different expectations on the part of library users.

Technological change and economic factors pose the risk of creating a wide gap between the "information rich" and the "information poor." Libraries provide an opportunity for persons of all ages, ability and economic condition to obtain information, pursue learning, and advance in knowledge.

One of the chief constraints upon library service to millions of people in New York State is the difficulty libraries face in reaching and serving many people who are not now using libraries. Library policies, plans, and services need reevaluation in the light of community needs. In some cases this will require action to meet user expectations — in others it will require action to create or raise user expectations.

Technological changes require library investment in equipment and software for new services, increased attention to in-service training of library personnel, and additional qualified personnel for specialized positions. At the same time, the need for additional staff for traditional services should not be overlooked.

To ensure adequate access to information resources and services for all residents of New York State, libraries and library systems require additional State, local, and Federal support. Although libraries have traditionally offered their services at no charge to users, the cost of providing such new services as computer data base searches, is causing a reevaluation of this policy. Static budgets are forcing libraries to spend less on materials as rising costs in other areas absorb larger percentages of their budgets. Today it is not uncommon for a public library to spend more for fuel than for library materials.

In 1984, the total public library expenditure from all sources was $347 million, making the average public library expenditure per capita, exclusive of capital expenditures, $19.78. Per capita expenditure at the local level ranges from 88 cents in Depauville (Jefferson County) to $173.07 in Norwood (St. Lawrence County). One out of eight public libraries in 1984 expended less than $8,000 for its entire operation — materials, salaries, utilities, and building maintenance. By late 1985, many of these libraries, and larger libraries throughout the State faced additional uncertainty and austerity with the threatened end of Federal revenue sharing.

A large number of libraries lack adequate physical facilities. To make libraries accessible to handicapped persons as required by State and Federal law will require remodeling, renovation, and the modification of many buildings. Many libraries require changes to make them more energy-efficient. Many libraries are planning new construction or remodeling, but most lack the funds to build or to make the required modifications. Most of the facilities for institution libraries need improvement.

The State's continuing strong commitment to support of library services can be measured by the major increases in library aid in 1981 and 1984, the level of support of library systems, and the State aid programs for purposes ranging from preservation of research materials to ensuring availability of health information. The Governor and the Legislature agree with the Regents recommendation that increased library aid is a priority, voting in 1984 the largest increase in library aid in the State's history.

Funding for the Federal Library Services and Construction Act is often uncertain from year to year, is low in relation to need, and is inadequate to meet the goals stated in the statute.

Libraries in New York State operate with a sound legal base. The Federal Library Services and Construction Act and its Federal regulations establish requirements, limit the use of funds to specific purposes, and set general boundaries of use. New York State's Education Law and other State laws also establish the boundaries within which libraries and systems must operate, the standards and requirements they must meet, and their legal structure.

Needs: Following are five needs identified in discussions with the Advisory Council: (1) Improve service, and access to that service, to persons with currently inadequate service; (2) improve service, and access to that service, for such groups with special needs as

(a) economically, educationally, and culturally disadvantaged persons

(b) blind and physically handicapped persons

(c) institutionalized persons

(d) persons who do not speak English or those for whom English is a second language

(e) elderly persons;

(3) increase efficiency and effectiveness of libraries through resource sharing and the use of technology; (4) test, demonstrate, and evaluate new services leading to new locally supported services; and (5) improve the State Library as a development and statewide service agency.

"The public library is a way of escape from the narrow area of our individual libraries into the field, finite, no doubt, but unbounded, of the wisdom and experience of all mankind. It is not the only way of escape, but for the majority of us it is by far the widest and the easiest to pass through, thus the one that we should be most careful to keep open and free from impediments."

—Gerald W. Johnson.
1956

Goals

Regents policy on libraries affirms that every resident of New York State should enjoy timely and free access, through local libraries working within library systems, to a full range of informational resources and services, provided without restriction of censorship or violation of privacy.

"Free access" means access without regard to the age, sex, cultural or ethnic background, or other personal characteristics of the user. It means, as well, accommodating disabled persons and others through outreach programs and adaptation of services. In publicly financed and publicly operated libraries, access to informational resources should be provided free of cost to the user, except for modest and equitable fees charged for special service alternatives.

Providing access and services to meet the information, education, cultural, and recreational needs of all the people of the State requires a comprehensive program involving all types of libraries. Different types of libraries have evolved to meet the variety of needs of the State's men, women, and children. These include public, academic (community college, college, and university), school, special (business, government, and organization), and institution libraries. Through systems and networks these diverse resources become accessible to the greatest number of people. The sharing of resources by all libraries (public, academic, school, special, and institution) within the State through local, regional, and State partnerships is encouraged through regional- and state-level system development. Because no single library or region contains everything that a library user might require, the State created and is continuing to develop the New York State Interlibrary Loan Network. Through this network, public, academic, medical, institution and business libraries, irrespective of size or location, have access to library resources throughout the State.

Extending this basic State goal are those more specific purposes stated in the Federal Library Services and Construction Act (as amended by Public Laws 91-600, 93,380, 95-123 and 98-480). The purposes of Title I are: the improvement of public library service and the elimination of inadequacies to those not fully served; improvement of library service in State institutions; expansion and improvement of library programs for the blind and physically handicapped; strengthening of metropolitan public libraries, which play essential roles in regional service; and strengthening the State Library's coordinating, development, and support services.

The purpose of Title II is to assist in the construction of public library buildings.

The purpose of Title III is to establish and maintain local, regional, State, or interstate cooperative networks of libraries for the systematic and effective coordination of the resources of school, public, academic, and special libraries and special information centers.

Library planners have developed objectives for these goals. Implicit in the goals are two principles: that the people of New York State may use more than one type of library, and that all libraries are interdependent. Nine objectives are stated and described in part six of this document. They are:

Local Service

Library Systems

Service for Blind and Physically Disabled Persons

Service for Adult Learners

Service for Residents of Institutions

Effective Use of Technology

Physical Facilities

School Library Services

State Library Services

Some factors that influence these objectives are: the priorities of the Regents as related to libraries and cultural education; Federal priorities under the Library Services and Construction Act; library and information needs of users; the status of ongoing programs in their various phases of implementation; and the current economic environment with constraints on local, State and Federal fiscal resources.

Education Department officers and staff review Library Services and Construction Act program documents to ensure coordination between library programs and programs of other educational institutions. As staff of the Office of Higher and Professional Education, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, the Office of Elementary, Secondary and Continuing Education, and the Office of Cultural Education participate in such reviews, they provide technical assistance and assist in joint program development. Each library system which receives an LSCA Title I or Title III grant files six-month, nine-month, and twelve-month reports including evaluative information. These reports are reviewed by the Library Development staff (and are available to the Advisory Council which systematically evaluate a group of projects each year), often in conjunction with site visits. In addition, some projects such as several identified in the chapter, "Library Resource Sharing in New York State and Technological Change," are specifically developed to provide planning and evaluation information. Results of evaluations are appropriately disseminated. Project reports and the review by the Advisory Council form the basis for the annual narrative report to the U.S. Department of Education. The narrative is also printed in *The Bookmark* and is widely distributed.

"The vitality of libraries as educational agencies depends upon wise actions by public decision makers and others who provide resources to educational institutions. The American Library Association identifies four realities for educational reform within a learning society. The four realities are:

1. *Learning begins before schooling.*
2. *Good schools require good school libraries.*
3. *People in a learning society need libraries throughout their lives.*
4. *Public support of libraries is an investment in people and communities.*

—American Library Association Task Force on Excellence in Education. 1984

Nine Library Program Objectives

New York State has an enormous range of library services, resources and operations. Following are nine broad objectives or programs for assuring all residents of New York State convenient free access to library services. The order in which they appear does not indicate priority.

1. Quality service for all persons in their local communities.

The residents of New York State have a right to receive good library service in their home communities. In seeking information, users may start at a number of different points. The usual point of access for the person not enrolled in a formal course of education is a public library or branch library. Students usually turn first to a school or academic library. Business, research, or management information needs are often taken to a corporate library. When each library operated independently, each information seeker had to go from library to library. Today, by channeling materials and information from one library to another, the network of libraries can bring the resources of the State to the local community.

Those persons who are economically disadvantaged or who face cultural, physical, or psychological barriers may need special help in the use of library services. Some 5.6 million persons over the age of 16 in New York State lack a high school diploma or the equivalent. The 1980 Census determined that 13.4 percent of the State's population lives below the poverty level. Economically disadvantaged people are both concentrated in urban areas and scattered throughout suburban and rural areas of the State. For many New Yorkers, English is not a first language. In 1980, more than 20 percent of the 9 million residents of The New York City Metropolitan area were foreign-born, and some 25 major languages from Arabic to Yiddish were spoken by 30 percent of the residents of that area.

One of the most significant demographic trends in New York State—as in the Nation—is the aging of the population. That segment of the population of persons 60 years or older is growing at a faster rate than any other age group, with large increases occurring in the over-75 age group. New York State has an estimated elderly population of 3.2 million, second in size only to California's 3.4 million. In 1980 the elderly represented over 17 percent of the population, as compared with 15.5 percent in 1970. By 2010, the elderly are expected to constitute over 21 percent of the population.

Libraries ought to serve both traditional and new users. To do this they often employ special or outreach techniques for making contact with potential users. The term traditional user has been employed to describe library users in the general population served by a library or library system. Within this population there are people who are considered special clientele (for example, local government officials, operators of small businesses, or persons fluent in both English and foreign languages) for whom the library may make a special effort.

Library outreach services are programs specifically designed to reach and serve urban and rural persons who may be physically, mentally, or educationally disadvantaged, people who are institutionalized in government or nongovernment facilities; and those people who are isolated by cultural differences and geographical distances. These outreach services generally attempt to restore balance and equity in library service to

those people who may have suffered racial and other discrimination.

To implement this objective the State Library, directly or through library systems, will:

a. Provide to local libraries of all types information on the resources available to their users (current and potential) through library networking.

b. Continue to seek legislation favorable to library development in the State.

c. Strengthen services to persons with limited English-speaking ability by continuing to identify such users (and potential users) and providing programs and resources, including nonprint materials, for their use.

d. Provide materials and services designed to help functionally illiterate persons begin to use libraries.

e. Provide materials and services to disadvantaged persons

f. Encourage libraries to seek out and serve minority persons.

g. Encourage libraries to serve a growing population of elderly.

h. Increase efforts to reach potential users through effective public relations, library outreach, and cooperation with community organizations.

2. Improvement of library systems, their resource libraries, and further development of intersystem cooperation, to enable libraries of all types to serve their users more completely, efficiently, and effectively.

More than 35 years of library system development in New York State, starting with public library systems and reference and research library resources systems, and now including school library systems, have demonstrated the value of building upon the strength of existing institutions, shared development and use of resources, and imaginative program development.

State aid for libraries now totals $56.9 million, largely generated through systems of libraries. The services, costs, and operations of these libraries and systems are being affected by major changes in the State and by advances in technology. A 1980-81 Committee on Statewide Library Development appointed by the Commissioner of Education established five goals for library system development in the 1980's and made recommendations for State policy, resource sharing, funding, and library systems.

There has not been a comprehensive evaluation of library systems since the 1963-66 evaluation of the New York State public library systems, *Emerging Library Systems*. A study is needed to provide the information base upon which to develop State policy of the next 15 years. Such a study should provide a projection of library service needs for the 1988-1999 period, an evaluation of the present 31 regional library systems and the central libraries, and an evaluation of changes predicted as a result of technological developments.

The 1980-81 Commissioner's Committee on Statewide Library Development recommended that systems of all types review and redefine their missions in terms of emerging user needs and technological development. The Committee also defined the following principles for resource sharing:

- Each library in the State should have access to other collections in the State.
- Interlibrary loan and other types of resource sharing are integral parts of library systems and networks.
- Regional resource sharing provides a sound basis for interlibrary loan activity.
- Clear standards for interlibrary loan network performance are needed.
- Communications technology and computer-based data storage techniques should be used for efficient resource sharing.
- Data base development should be monitored for adherence to technical standards.

- Access to the several national data bases and to the diversity of services they offer is in the interest of New York State.
- A State-supported network should make optimum use of prior public investment in resources and should provide incentives for using nonreimbursed resources and services before turning to reimbursed resources.
- State reimbursement for interlibrary loans is an appropriate mechanism for assuring access to statewide collections.
- Successful resource sharing depends upon the strength of library collections in the participating libraries.

Recommendations based upon these principles include pursuit of interfaces among interlibrary loan networks, redesign of the NYSILL network to accommodate point-to-point access and to distribute loan requests more evenly, and expanded attention to continuing education required to meet the needs of tomorrow's libraries for personnel with the knowledge, competencies, and skills needed to participate in technological development and to provide more responsive library and information services.

The development of a statewide retrospective data base of monograph holdings is being accelerated as a result of the 1984 legislation providing funds for regional databases for interlibrary resource sharing. The New York State union list of serials is being developed as a coordinated statewide program to build a machine-readable data base through the CONSER (*Con*version of *Ser*ials) project. The State Library will seek funds to inventory, catalog, and selectively preserve newspapers in the State.

Title I of the Federal Library Services and Construction Act earmarks funds for the strengthening of public libraries which serve as major urban resource libraries. These libraries fill an important place in the proper functioning of any major system or network. Public libraries in New York State that qualify for assistance under this program are the Albany Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, The New York Public Library, Queens Borough Public Library, Rochester Public Library, Onondaga County Public Library (Syracuse), and Yonkers Public Library.

To encourage development of an efficient and effective system of libraries in New York, the State Library will:

a. Sponsor a comprehensive study of library services and systems as a basis for planning for library services in the 1990's.

b. Encourage cooperative programs that enable systems to provide needed resources and services to member libraries.

c. Seek additional State funds for support of library systems, for strengthening the research collections of the major research libraries participating as resource libraries in the NYSILL program, and for conservation of library research materials.

d. Conduct a systematic review of public library system and reference and research library system plans of service to examine current practices, update when appropriate, and suggest options for the future.

e. Cooperate with public library systems, library educators, and other appropriate groups to assess continuing education needs and carry out recommendations of the Statewide Continuing Library Education Advisory Committee.

f. Strengthen major urban resource libraries as Federal funds become available.

g. Use the results of the 1985 interlibrary loan study in redesigning interlibrary loan policy and operations, and further extend remote use of the State Library's on-line catalog.

3. Improved service to disabled persons.

Physical disabilities affecting vision, hearing, mobility, perception, or learning disability should not limit the quality of library service available to users. Meeting the objective of improved service to disabled persons requires access to information

resources in special formats that provide disabled persons with the same wide variety of subjects, points of view, and comprehension levels available to other library patrons. Special equipment (record players, cassette players, reading machines, and low vision aids), special materials (braille, recorded disc and tape cassettes) and the adaptation of physical structures make libraries accessible to disabled persons.

The New York Public Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, serving readers in the five boroughs of New York City and Long Island, and the New York State Library for the Blind and Visually Handicapped, serving readers in 55 upstate counties, are the two regional libraries in the State designed to serve disabled users. Public libraries and other local community agencies are important points of contact for this service. They can identify potential users, provide readers advisory services, introduce users to such conventional services as telephone reference and audio collections, and provide intermediary contact between the local user and the regional libraries. Public library systems can also sponsor such local or regional programs as radio reading service for blind and visually handicapped persons.

The special information needs of disabled persons need to be better understood and addressed by all types of libraries. Opportunities to learn about these needs must be made available to library staff. Collections should include the special resource materials which persons with impaired vision, or hearing or other physical disabilities, persons with learning disabilities, and their families require to meet daily living needs. Library systems must make commitments to library users with impaired hearing through outreach programs involving staff with special communication skills, special materials, and new telephone/teletype written communications systems.

To meet this commitment the State Library will:

a. Encourage use of regional library services to blind and visually handicapped persons.

b. Strengthen lines of communication between the regional libraries and other libraries, agencies and patrons, and encourage libraries to cooperate with other organizations to extend and improve services to disabled persons.

c. Maintain a full range of services and a strong collection of special media materials for blind and visually handicapped persons.

d. Cooperate with agencies which serve hearing impaired persons to provide to library systems information about deafness and its implications, along with resource materials to help meet the library information needs of persons with hearing impairment.

4. Improved service to adult learners and others who use or could use the library as a resource for general, cultural or vocational education.

Each year more adults are involved in independent learning to keep their education from becoming obsolete as fields of knowledge change rapidly and as they see a continuing need to improve and increase their knowledge in relation to their jobs. Development of programs such as the Regents College Degree, Empire State College, and the University Without Walls have made it possible to obtain a college degree largely through independent study without attending formal, on-campus programs. Students in these programs are already making added demands on their local public libraries.

Greater numbers of adults are enrolled part time in continuing education programs at secondary and postsecondary levels sponsored by local school districts, BOCES, and two- or four-year colleges. Whether preparing for high school equivalency examinations or enrolled in postsecondary programs, many part-time students find the public library to be an accessible and important resource. Libraries provide programs and resources to persons interested in attaining basic literacy skills, or obtaining career planning and

employment opportunity information. These needs are identified and met through Job and Education Information Centers and adult literacy programs.

The 1976 Amendments to the Higher Education Act authorized the Education Information Center Program and required the states to develop comprehensive plans to provide educational information, guidance, and referral services on the postsecondary level for all individuals. Higher Education Act funds were discontinued, but the development of education and career information and advisory services for adults continued in New York with the help of a generous grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. In 1984 and 1985, State funds were appropriated for the program. New York State has given special attention to the public library as a delivery system for these services. Factors that make the public library a particularly appropriate service delivery point include (1) its neutrality, (2) its established identity as a community information center, (3) its ability to classify, store and retrieve large quantities of information, (4) accessibility, and (5) prolonged hours of service to the general public.

Each of the seven EIC sites serves special populations in addition to serving the general public. Client groups include the economically disadvantaged, persons whose language is other than English, the rurally isolated, and disabled persons. Thirty-five percent of the persons served enroll in an education program or find employment. These sites serve as models useful to other libraries in providing education and career information to adults.

Public libraries have always provided reader advisory services, either formally or informally, but new demands of users are requiring that librarians acquire greater skill and knowledge in assisting the adult learner. To meet these demands the State Library will:

a. Provide technical and consultant services to public libraries, emphasizing staff development and continuing library education directed at improving adult services.

b. Identify and secure additional sources of funding to assist local libraries to improve and increase services to adult learners.

c. Encourage cooperation among libraries and other cultural and educational institutions and community-based organizations.

d. Seek State support to institutionalize and expand the EIC program.

e. Seek State aid funds to expand public library services that assist adults to increase their literacy skills.

f. Review outreach needs and services as a part of the comprehensive study of library systems and services; revise definitions and programs as needed.

5. Development of library service to residents of institutions.

Institutionalized persons need convenient free access to library services to meet their needs for information, education, and recreation. Institution libraries should help residents adjust successfully to self and society. Institution residents have special needs and interests and require specialized library materials and services, including materials in Spanish and other languages, and in nonprint formats. Institution libraries need strong support from public library systems and member libraries, and they need the capability to tie into NYSILL and other networks.

Special State appropriations for institution library service have been used to assist public libraries in providing additional service to residents of local institutions, including "books-by-mail" programs and interlibrary loan. In addition, projects have been developed under LSCA Title I. In 1984, legislation authorized State aid to public library systems which provide services to State-operated correctional facilities.

For the past several years the number of men and women incarcerated in correctional facilities in New York has grown rapidly. The number in State correctional facilities alone grew from fewer than 15,000 in 1974-75 to over 31,000 in 1983-

84. This has resulted in a number of new facilities, planned, in construction and completed, and has brought about pressures to increase vocational, educational, and recreational programs for the inmate population. Over 30 percent of this population is between the ages of 16 and 24; an additional 24 percent is between 25 and 29 years. Typically, they have less than a 12th grade education, but about 30 percent have a high school diploma.

One of the fastest growing programs in State facilities is college study. From a handful of college-level offerings available at one or two facilities in the early 1970's, these activities have expanded to a wide variety of programs offered by many colleges and in virtually every facility in the State. In the fall of 1984, 24 colleges offered more than 500 courses with an unduplicated enrollment of over 10,000 in State, Federal and local correctional institutions. In the spring of 1985, more than 3,300 inmates of State correctional facilities were enrolled in two- or four-year degree programs. Nearly 240 certificates and some 350 degrees were awarded to inmates of State correctional facilities in 1984-85. Clearly, library services will become more important as these education programs grow.

An effective program for institution library service requires adequate support from the agencies which administer the institutions, staffing at the institution level, and full participation by institution libraries in the mainstream of library networking.

The State Library will:

a. Provide staff assistance and consultant service for the planning and development of institution library programs, emphasizing basic support from the agencies which administer the institutions and backup services from the agencies and library systems.

b. Provide information on effective institution library services and disseminate information through conferences and workshops.

c. Work with public systems in developing and maintaining services to residents of institutions.

d. Encourage libraries to pay particular attention to the needs of elderly persons in institutions.

6. Effective use of technology to improve services and efficiency.

Rapid technological change will continue to affect all aspects of library service and library systems. Libraries are changing as they add materials in new formats (microforms, videotapes, laser and video discs, and computer programs for self-instruction) to their collections. Library staffs are being reshaped and different personnel needs are being created as communications technology and computers perform more clerical and professional tasks and make possible more rapid and efficient resource sharing.

Basic to the application of technology to library operations is the conversion of library catalogs to machine-readable format. Once library catalogs have been converted, automated acquisitions, accounting, and circulation subsystems can comprise an integrated system. Such systems facilitate resource sharing and can be linked to create a statewide network with links to national networks like RLIN and OCLC.

To build such a computer-based statewide network, Federal and State grant funds are being used as outlined in the chapter, "Library Resource Sharing in New York State and Technological Change."

The purpose of this action is to provide libraries of all types, sizes, and locations access to all parts of the data base, wherever stored, and to encourage links to all national networks serving libraries in New York State. To accomplish this, the State Library will:

a. Continue to support machine-readable bibliographic and locator database development as outlined on page 18.

b. Sponsor appropriate studies to plan and design the technological components of a statewide network for a coordinated resource-sharing and document-delivery system as outlined on page 19.

c. Underwrite one or more projects to link selected automated databases in the State, providing expanded access to bibliographic and holdings records.

d. Monitor and assist cooperative regional planning that supports resource sharing and services, using consulting capability both within the State Library and through an informal network of practioners in the State.

e. Integrate LSCA funds, State aid for regional bibliographic and data base development, and other resources effectively.

f. Encourage and assist libraries of all types to make appropriate use of computers, including the experimental use and testing of new technological applications.

7. Construction and renovation of library facilities to improve service in systems and member public libraries and to provide access for the physically handicapped.

Many library buildings are too small or are outdated. Changes in service programs and information technology are creating demands that existing library buildings cannot meet because they lack space, flexibility, adequate electrical wiring, and climate control. Library buildings generally need modification to make them energy efficient and to remove architectural barriers that limit access by persons with physical handicaps.

Data supplied by public libraries in 1985 indicate that it would cost approximately $94 million to provide adequate public library physical facilities throughout the State. State-level and system-level planning for physical facilities is needed to gain maximum value for construction expenditures and avoid possible overbuilding. State legislation in 1984 authorized State aid for public library construction, renovation, and modification of public library buildings. Both State and Federal funds will be required to narrow the gap between need and present inadequate facilities.

To overcome the problem of inadequate facilities the State Library will:

a. Seek appropriations for State aid for library construction, renovation and/or modification of public library buildings.

b. Use Federal LSCA Title II and other available funds to assist library construction and renovation.

c. Conduct an annual construction needs assessment within the State.

d. Continue the State-level and system-level planning processes to gain maximum value for construction expenditures.

8. Improved school library media service to students and teachers.

School libraries support the educational and instructional program of elementary and secondary schools, providing students with the skills and attitudes needed to become lifelong library users. Children who have the opportunity to read widely in areas of interest to them and at a comfortable level of difficulty can improve their reading, visual, and analytical skills. If they have not learned the necessary techniques of research and inquiry, children will not be able to benefit from the extensive resources of libraries as adults. The goal of lifelong learning and the success of adult independent learners depends heavily on the quality of library experiences in the formative years.

Research verifies that school libraries with professional staff can have a positive effect on student achievement. The continued development and improvement of school library services require increased Federal, State, and local support for the recruitment and employment of certified school library media specialists to serve students, teachers and administrators in all schools, the acquisition of school library media resources, and the expansion of school library systems.

From 1979-1984, State funds supported 12 school library systems designed to strengthen individual school library programs and to interact with the established public library systems and the reference and research library resources systems. Legislation enacted in 1984 authorized school library systems throughout the State.

To improve school library media service the State Library will:

a. Work with the Bureau of School Library Media Programs for the sound development of school library systems.

b. Strengthen liaison between the Bureau of School Library Media Programs and the Library Development Division.

c. Sponsor school/public library conferences to disseminate information on topics of current interest to library personnel.

d. Foster cooperation between school and public libraries in appropriate programs of service to children and parents.

9. Strengthening of the resources and services of the State Library to assure (a) the highest quality reference and research library service to the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of State government; (b) efficient and effective interlibrary loan, networking, support and specialized library services to libraries and clienteles; and (c) planning, coordination, leadership and State financial participation in the provision of library service to all the people of New York State.

Effective access by all State residents to information resources requires coordinated planning, the full use of sophisticated technology, an administrative center for the statewide information and interlibrary loan network, strong collections of information materials, well-educated staff, and flexible staffing patterns. Each level of library service responsibilities must be identified and the State Library should assist in this process. The relationship of individual libraries to regional networks and the role of regional networks in statewide resource sharing requires definition and coordination at the State level.

Development and improvement of library services statewide require consultant, specialist, and administrative staff in the Library Development Division and the Administration Unit for work with libraries, systems, networks, government agencies, professional organizations, and users. The State Library agency must strengthen its capacity in the collection and analysis of statistics for measurement and evaluation, develop appropriate continuing education programs, and develop effective communication with all types of libraries and organizations concerned with library, information, cultural, and educational services.

For the Library, priority must go to those programs and services which it can uniquely provide as the research library for the government and people of the State, as a statewide resource and administrative center for the interloan network and as a regional resource for the blind and visually handicapped.

For the Library Development Division, priority must be placed upon the provision of staff with special skills capable of providing services usually not found at, or appropriate to, local or regional levels of service. Library Development staff provide leadership and support in areas such as organization, management, planning, evaluation, technology, continuing education, and service to special clienteles.

To implement this program, the State Library will:

a. Use the State Library collection, the resources of referral libraries and a computer-based telecommunications network to improve statewide interlibrary loan network performance and to fill requests not satisfied by regional systems.

b. Maintain collection and staff strengths at the Library, which will insure timely and effective response to interlibrary loan requests.

c. Use new techniques to improve library and network performance and provide access to a full range of information resources (including computerized data bases).

d. Support statewide public information programs designed to increase awareness of library services.

e. Provide consultant service and staff assistance for planning and development of library services.

f. Emphasize the review of plans of service as a means of exercising more current and systematic planning and evaluation.

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"What we do about books and reading in the next decades will crucially affect our citizens' opportunities for englightenment and self-improvement, their ability to share in the wisdom and delights of civilization, and their capacity for intelligent self-government.

—Daniel J. Boorstin,
The Librarian of Congress.
1984

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